The *Penitential* DECLARATION of *RALPH LOWNDES* of *Middlewich* in the County of *Chester*, Gentleman.

WHereas by the *Soft Interpretation* of the Magiſtrate Adminiſtring the Oath, the general Example of Men of *reputed Prudence* and *Integrity*, and my own *Weakneſs*, I have been brought to the taking the *New Oath* of *Allegiance*, which I am ſince convinced was ſinfull for me to take, in *any Senſe*, as being Inconſiſtent with the *Oaths* by Me formerly taken, and the Duty which thoſe Oaths Unalterably (as I *now* think) bound upon my *Conſcience*; I do *now*, after mature Deliberation, *freely*, and of *my own accord*, (being of ſound and perfect Underſtanding, God be thanked for it,) make *this Declaration* in evidence of my *ſincere Repentance*, and to remove that *Scandal*, as far as in me lies, which this *Sin* of mine has given to my Chriſtian Brethren. In Witneſs whereof I have hereunto ſet my Hand, this Sixteenth Day of of *Septemb. Anno Dom.* 1690.

Ralph Lowndes, Senior.

Read before, and declared by the above-ſaid *Ralph Lowndes*, to be his Act and Deed, and that this Declaration is according to his own Mind, and ſigned by him in preſence of

C. Venables.
Hugh Starkey.
J. Henſhaw.
Thomas Falkner, Vicar of *Middlewich.*
W. Lowndes.
J. Henſhaw.
Ralph Lowndes Junior.

POSTSCRIPT.

THE Gentleman who made the above mentioned Declaration, was a Perſon very well known in his own Country to have been a Man of great Integrity; and to teſtifie the ſincerity of his Repentance, he did upon his Death-bed order, That all the Money which he had gotten by any Employments, for the Management whereof he had fitted himſelf by his taking the *New Oaths*, ſhould be given to pious and charitable Uſes; which was accordingly performed by his Executor.